

**MINUTES OF THE
DISPATCH SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 10, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W020 House Building**

Members Present:

Rep. Paul Ray, Chair
Sen. Fred J. Fife III
Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman

Staff Present:

Mr. Stewart E. Smith, Policy Analyst
Ms. Susan Creager Allred, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Members Absent:

Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux
Rep. Curtis Oda

Note: A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Ray called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. He had the committee members introduce themselves to the audience and he explained the purpose of the subcommittee.

MOTION: Sen. Fife moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2005. The motion passed unanimously

2. Description of Dispatch Services Statewide

Ms. Carol Groustra, Bureau Chief, DPS (Department of Public Safety) Communications, provided an overview of dispatch services in the state, both of past history and present needs.

3. Contracted Dispatch Services

Chief Deputy Roger Anderson, Davis County Sheriff's Office, and Ms. Karen Wright, Dispatch Manager, Davis County Sheriff's Dispatch Center explained the basis of charges to the state for continued dispatching services. Ms. Wright discussed the dispatcher's role in aiding law enforcement officers. They responded to questions from the subcommittee members relating to dispatching and those who are hired to fill those positions.

4. Dispatch Services Proposed State-wide Reimbursement Formula

Mr. Rich Amon, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, distributed and reviewed Dispatch Services Subcommittee - Proposed State-wide Reimbursement Formula. He also reviewed his white paper, County Dispatch Budget Increases, that was previously distributed to the subcommittee members. He discussed the value of a predictable formula for determining costs of dispatch services. He reviewed the formula he created to help counties measure their cost basis.

Ms. Groustra explained her need to have a predictable budget and expressed her appreciation to Mr. Amon for the formula he created. She encouraged the subcommittee members to seriously consider the use of a cost-base formula.

5. Dispatcher Qualifications and Compensation

Ms. Karen Wright, Dispatch Manager, Davis County Sheriff's Dispatch Center, and Ms. Deborah Mecham, Dispatch Manager, Weber Area Consolidated Communications Center, reviewed the training requirements for a dispatcher to become certified and recertified, as their tenure requires. Ms. Mecham explained that centers dispatching emergency medical assistance have additional certifications and medical protocol requirements. She also reviewed inservice training dispatchers receive in addition to the mandated certifications. She reviewed the training expenses and certification costs. They also reviewed backup systems that can be used if their dispatch centers become unuseable.

Ms. Wright reviewed the stress factors and resulting emotional, physical, and family affects to dispatchers. Increased compensation, adequate staffing, 20-year retirement benefits, and good training could help reduce the high turnover of dispatchers.

6. Recommendations to Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee

Chair Ray scheduled another meeting to be held on November 29, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss a state cost-based formula.

7. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Bowman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ray adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.